

'MICROFILMED

*OSR file*

# CIA Operations Center

Subject Middle East

Date March 16, 1978

Analyst/SDO

Distribution



## White House Spot Report

OC - WHSR - 78 - 052

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 CLASSIFICATION  
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CIA/OC/WSHR 78-052C

SOURCE REF:

1	OPS CTR.		7		10
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TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM. 4

ITEM NO: 3

DATE: 16 MARCH 1978

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST: THE POLITICAL FALLOUT OF THE ISREALI  
INCURSION

THE INCURSION HAS PREDICTABLY WON THE ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT  
OF THE ISRAELI PUBLIC AND PRESS.

A MOOD APPROACHING WAR FEVER HAD DEVELOPED IN ISRAEL  
PRIOR TO THE OPERATION AND HAS BEEN FOLLOWED BY A CATHARTIC SENSE  
OF RELIEF AND PRIDE. THE OPPOSITION LABOR PARTY HAS RALLIED  
FIRMLY BEHIND THE GOVERNMENT. FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON, A  
PROMINENT LABOR PARTY LEADER, HAS ENDORSED THE GOVERNMENT'S  
INTENTION TO KEEP FORCES IN SOUTHERN LEBANON UNTIL AN AGREEMENT  
IS WORKED OUT THAT BARS THE RETURN OF THE PALESTINIAN GUERRILLAS.

THE GOVERNMENT STILL FACES QUESTIONS  
OVER THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE TERRORIST RAID. RUMORS  
HAVE ALREADY APPEARED IN THE ISRAELI PRESS SUGGESTING THAT THERE  
WAS A SECURITY LAPSE.

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IN THE PAST THE SYRIANS HAVE RESISTED EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH A UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE IN SOUTH LEBANON, BELIEVING THAT THIS WOULD INFRINGE ON THEIR PREEMINENT POSITION IN LEBANON. ENDORSING SUCH A FORCE MIGHT ALSO HAVE PROMPTED CHARGES THAT SYRIA ABANDONED THE PALESTINIANS' LAST "FRONT" AGAINST ISRAEL. NONETHELESS ASAD WOULD PROBABLY NOW FIND A UN FORCE MORE PALATABLE THAN A CONTINUED ISRAELI PRESENCE. WITHOUT PUBLICLY ENDORSING SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT HE MAY TACITLY ENCOURAGE THE LEBANESE TO PURSUE IT. 4

EGYPT PRESIDENT SADAT YESTERDAY JOINED OTHER ARAB LEADERS IN CONDEMNING ISRAELI'S ATTACK INTO LEBANON. HE EMPHASIZED THAT ISRAEL'S SECURITY GOALS CAN BE MET ONLY BY SOLVING THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM, NOT BY FORCE OF ARMS. SADAT VOWED TO CONTINUE HIS SEARCH FOR PEACE. 4

OTHER EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS AND THE MEDIA YESTERDAY SHARPLY CRITICIZED ISRAEL'S "GENOCIDE" IN SOUTH LEBANON AND THE SCALE OF ITS REPRISAL. ISRAEL, NEVERTHELESS, IS STILL TREATED AS A POTENTIAL PARTNER IN SHAPING PEACE. 4

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ISRAEL'S RAID WAS USED AS AN OCCASION TO ATTACK THE USSR  
 AND SYRIA WHICH WERE RIDUCULED FOR THE CRAVEN REACTION. THE  
 US RECEIVED LITTLE ATTENTION PENDING A US OFFICIAL STATEMENT.  
 EGYPT CLEARLY EXPECTS THE US TO CONDEMN THE ISRAELI ACTION AND  
 TO LEAD DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO SECURE ISRAEL'S WITHDRAWAL FROM  
 LEBANON. PREPARED BY:

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